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**WORLD PREMIERE
FIRST-EVER FRANKLIN INSTITUTE PRODUCED
FULL DOME PLANETARIUM SHOW**

To Space & Back

*Visually stunning show uses the most advanced technology available
and is set for worldwide distribution*

Philadelphia, PA, March 18, 2013 —Philadelphia's The Franklin Institute is home to the nation's second oldest Planetarium. Although it is a historic cornerstone to museum, the Fels Planetarium continues to leap forward in technology standards. Today, nearly 80 years since the 1933 opening of the Fels Planetarium, The Franklin Institute will debut the most technologically advanced show *ever* presented in the Planetarium – and the first **full dome show** every produced by The Franklin Institute, in partnership with Sky-Skan, the world's leading manufacturer of immersive digital theaters.

Co-written and produced by The Franklin Institute's Chief Astronomer and Planetarium Director Derrick Pitts, *To Space & Back* explores how our everyday lives are directly affected by the technologies developed for use in space exploration. Innovations such as alternative water purification systems and energy sources, turbine blades, home insulation, improvements in car safety and better fuel efficiency are all a result of space research and exploration, and all have directly impacted modern life. "Every time we use GPS, look at images of Earth from space on computers or even use our smartphones to connect with friends and family, we're using technologies developed for space applications or connecting directly to satellites in orbit," explains Pitts "*To Space & Back* allows us to engage audiences of all ages in the realization of the many ways in which space exploration impacts us."

Projected in 4K resolution, at 60 frames per second on the 60-foot seamless dome of the Fels Planetarium, *To Space & Back* is a completely immersive experience showcasing the most advanced Planetarium technology. The show is narrated by BBC's *Top Gear* host James May, and includes scenes shot right here in Philadelphia.

To Space & Back is being distributed worldwide, and will soon debut at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, MD; Melbourne Victoria Museum in Melbourne, Australia; New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, NJ; Tellus Museum in Cartersville, GA; Vanderbilt Planetarium in Centerport, NY and SongAm Space Center, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea.

To Space & Back runs daily in the Fels Planetarium. General Museum admission includes one Planetarium show. For more information, please visit www.fi.edu.

About The Franklin Institute

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu.